



# Girl Reporter

VICTIM OF VAMPIRE KILLER?  
EXCLUSIVE REPORT INSIDE



# THE WORLDS Press

ISSUE 3    October 2000    £1.80 UK    \$2.95 US



# JACK STAFF

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO  
OR BRITAIN'S  
GREATEST KILLER?

# ON THE RUN!

## EXPOSED!

WE NAME AND SHAME THE  
VAMPIRES IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

# JACK STAFF

TWENTY YEARS AGO HE WAS  
BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO.  
THEN HE DISAPPEARED,  
AND EVERYBODY FORGOT ABOUT  
HIM.



## FLAG WAVING

WRITTEN &  
DRAWN BY  
PAUL  
GRIST

Welcome to this the third issue of Jack Staff. Apologies to anyone expecting Kane 29, which was due to arrive between this issue and Jack staff 2. Unfortunately scheduling problems (my fault, I'm sorry), meant I've had to resolicit those issues. The schedule, as it currently stands, means you should get this issue late November, followed by Jack Staff 4 early January. Kane 29 should be out in February, Kane 30 in March. After that it should be back to alternate issues of Kane and Jack Staff.

The other thing to mention about Kane is that I've had a sudden rush on orders for Kane book 2: Rabbit Hunt recently, and I've now sold out of all my copies. This book will probably be reprinted in the spring of 2001, so please hold off on ordering until then. Thanks!

Gratuitous plug department: ComicoLOGY 2 (which should be appearing in your local comic shop around the same time as this issue) features covers and interviews with me and Mike Allred (you are reading Atomics aren't you?).

Recommended reading department: I'm really enjoying the Essentials series of books that Marvel are putting out at the moment. Thick and cheap black and white collections of 'Classic Comics'. The most recent one is the Essential Iron Man, and it contains some absolutely brilliant artwork by Don Heck.



★ A PAUL GRIST ★  
PRODUCTION

# TWO RIDERS WERE

★ featuring ★



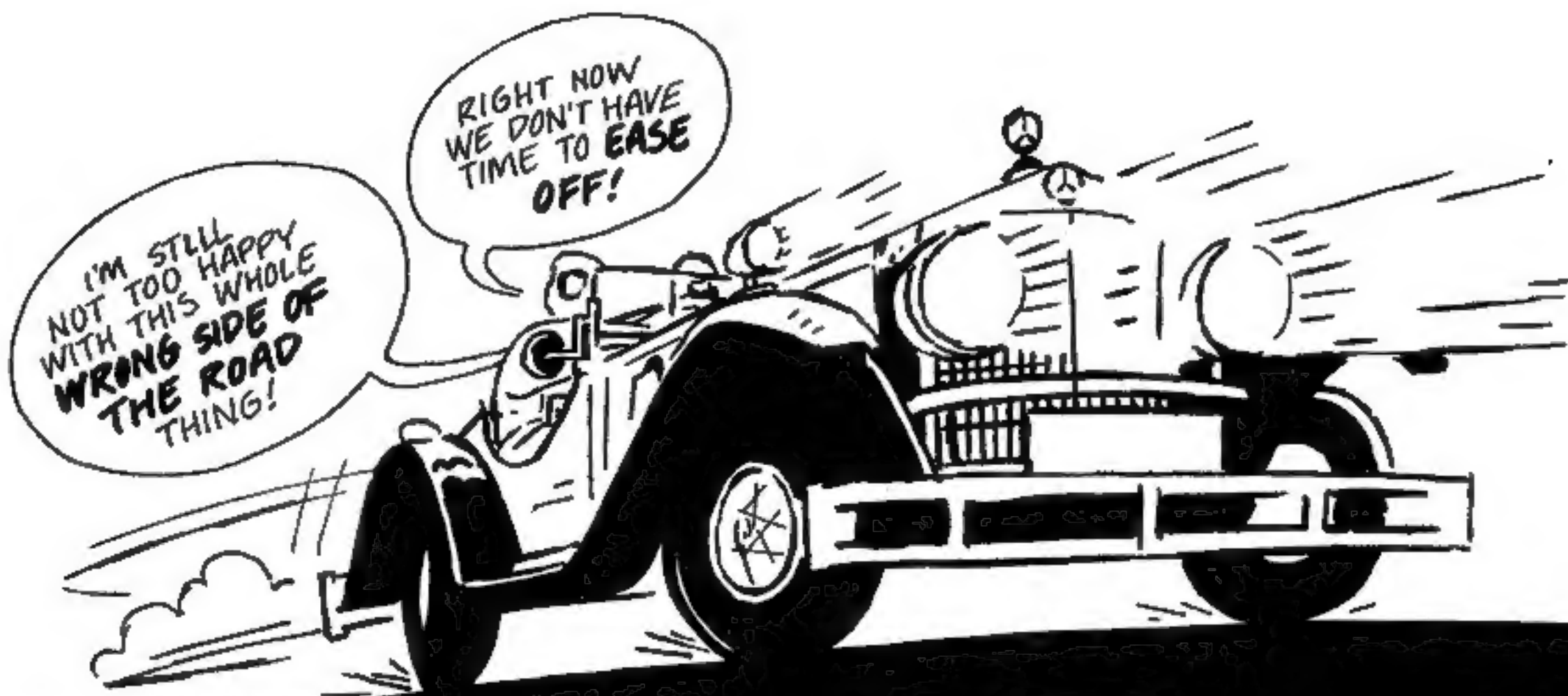
## JACK STAFF

BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO AND  
AMERICA'S FIGHTING FOOTSOLDIER

## SGT. STATES



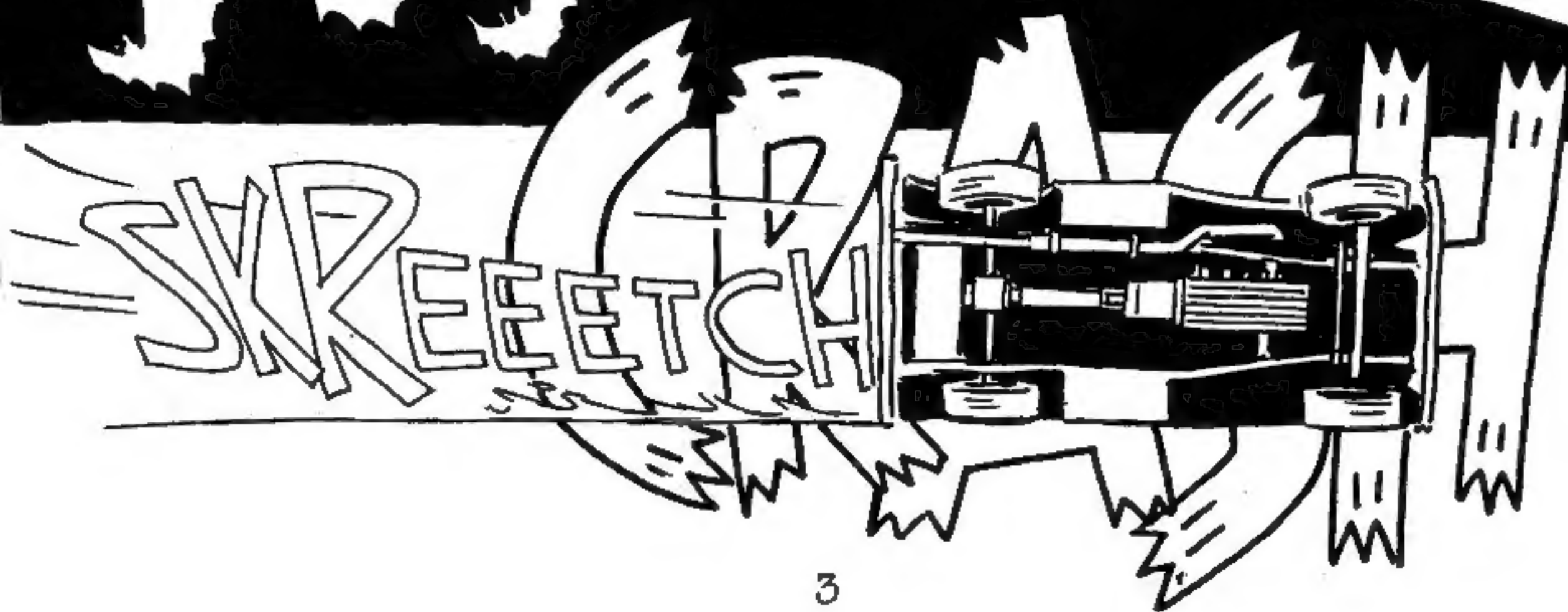
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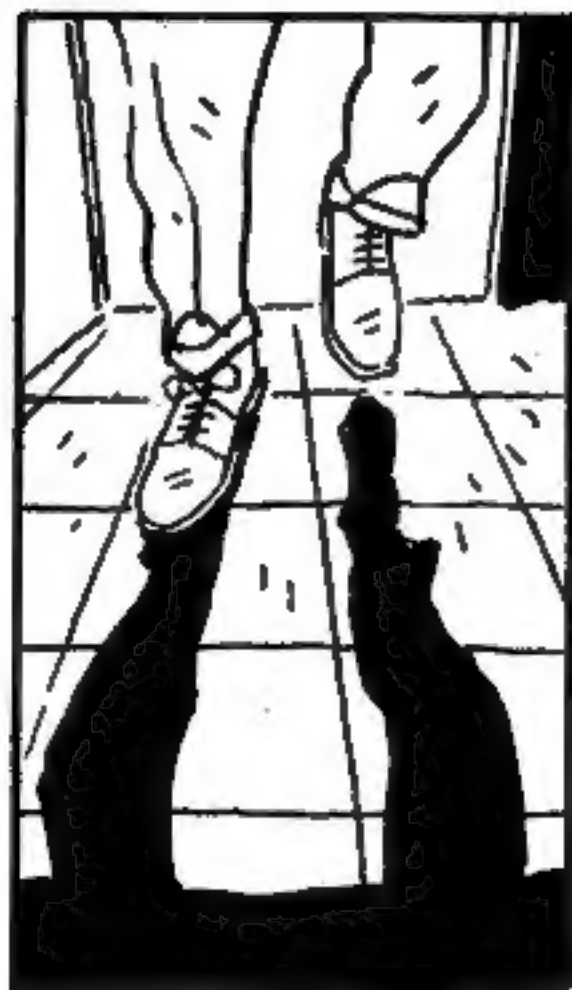






BAAAARRP





My name is  
BECKY BURDOCK.

GIRL REPORTER for  
THE WORLDS PRESS.



GIRL REPORTER. Hah!  
I'm twenty three.

No, it wasn't MY stupid  
idea. That's what an  
EDITOR is for.

Still, right now, I  
think I prefer it to  
DEAD REPORTER.

THIS  
IS  
THE  
STORY  
OF  
HOW I  
DIED

Another exclusive report from **BECKY BURDOCK** Girl Reporter

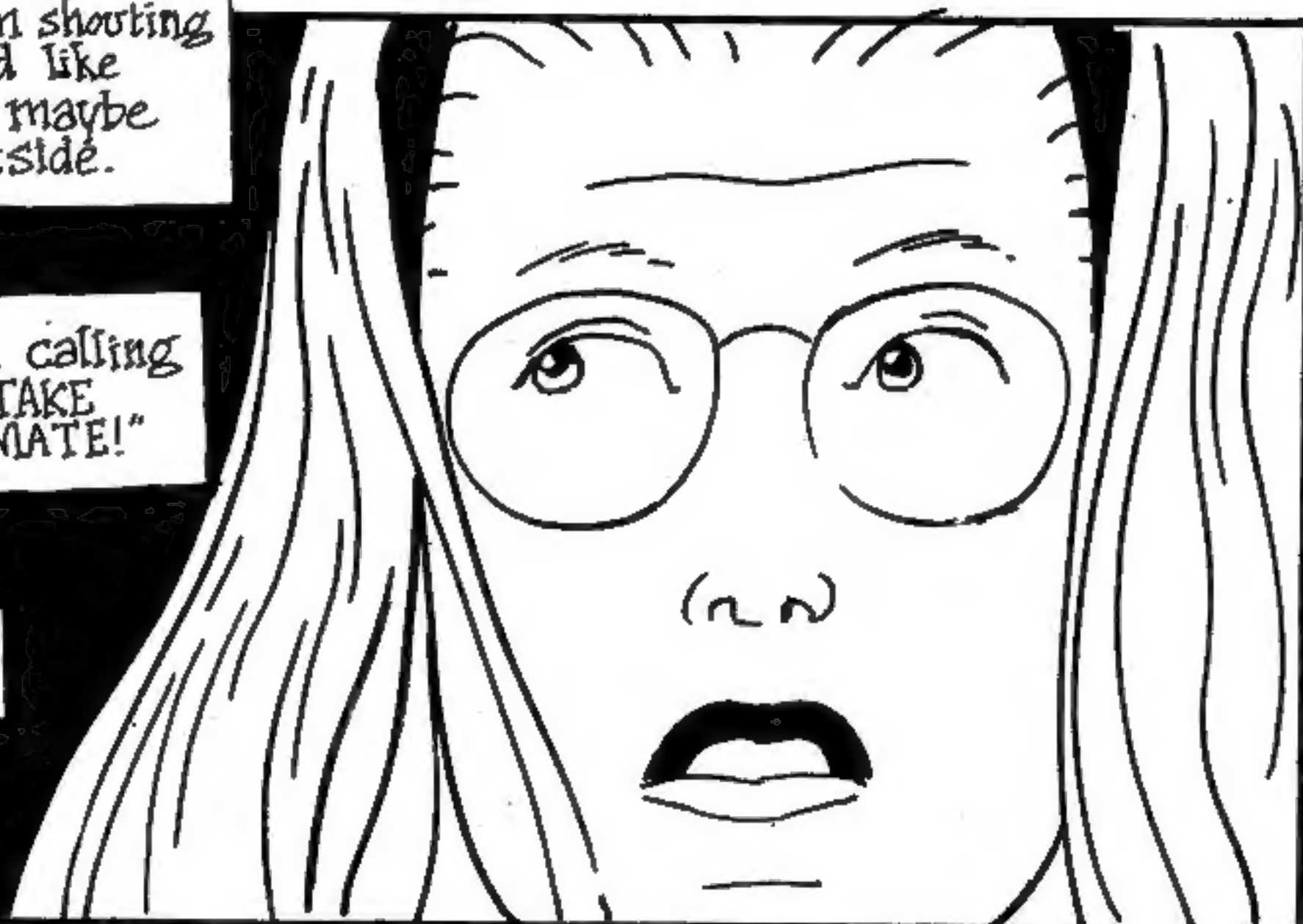




I could hear them shouting outside. Sounded like there was two, maybe three, people outside.

I heard Smith calling to his mate. "TAKE CARE OF HER, MATE!"

I had a plan



I blocked the office door.

uhugh

No-one could get in.

On the other hand, no-one could get out.

I never said it was a GREAT plan.



Still.

It gave me time to call for HELP!

BIP  
BIP



POLICE?

OF  
COURSE  
THIS IS AN  
EMERGENCY!

SOME  
ONE'S  
TRYING  
TO  
=sniff=

That's when I realise that there's someone else standing in the room.





I turn round and see him. It's the  
CASTLETOWN SLASHER. I know it.

And I know him. I've seen his  
face hundreds of times before.

So why can't I remember who he is?

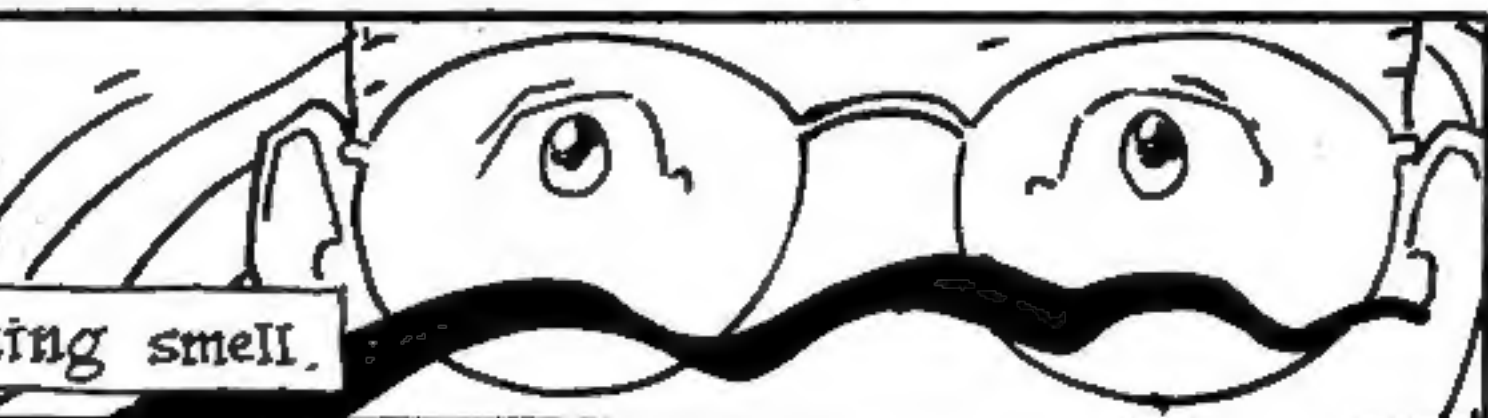
They say that when you  
die, you see your life  
flash before your eyes.

I don't know about that.

All I noticed was this disgusting smell.



KILL  
ME...



And then I died.

Which leaves just  
one question.

If I AM dead...



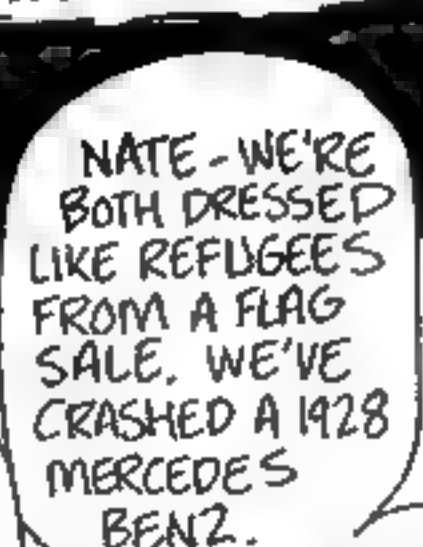
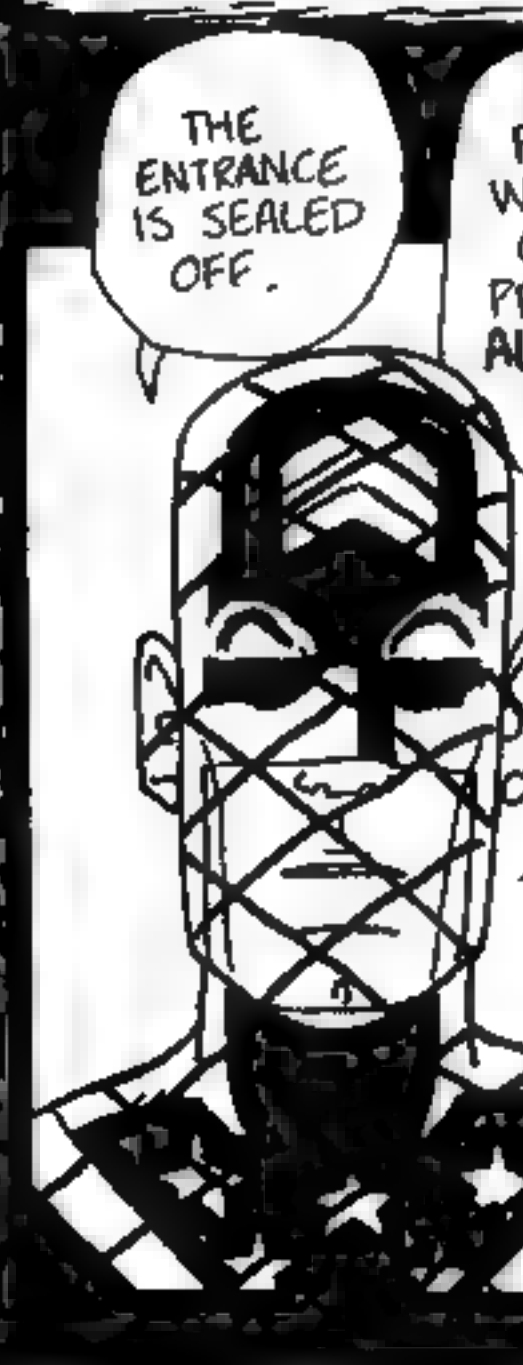
Why the Hell is some  
one STILL trying to  
kill me?

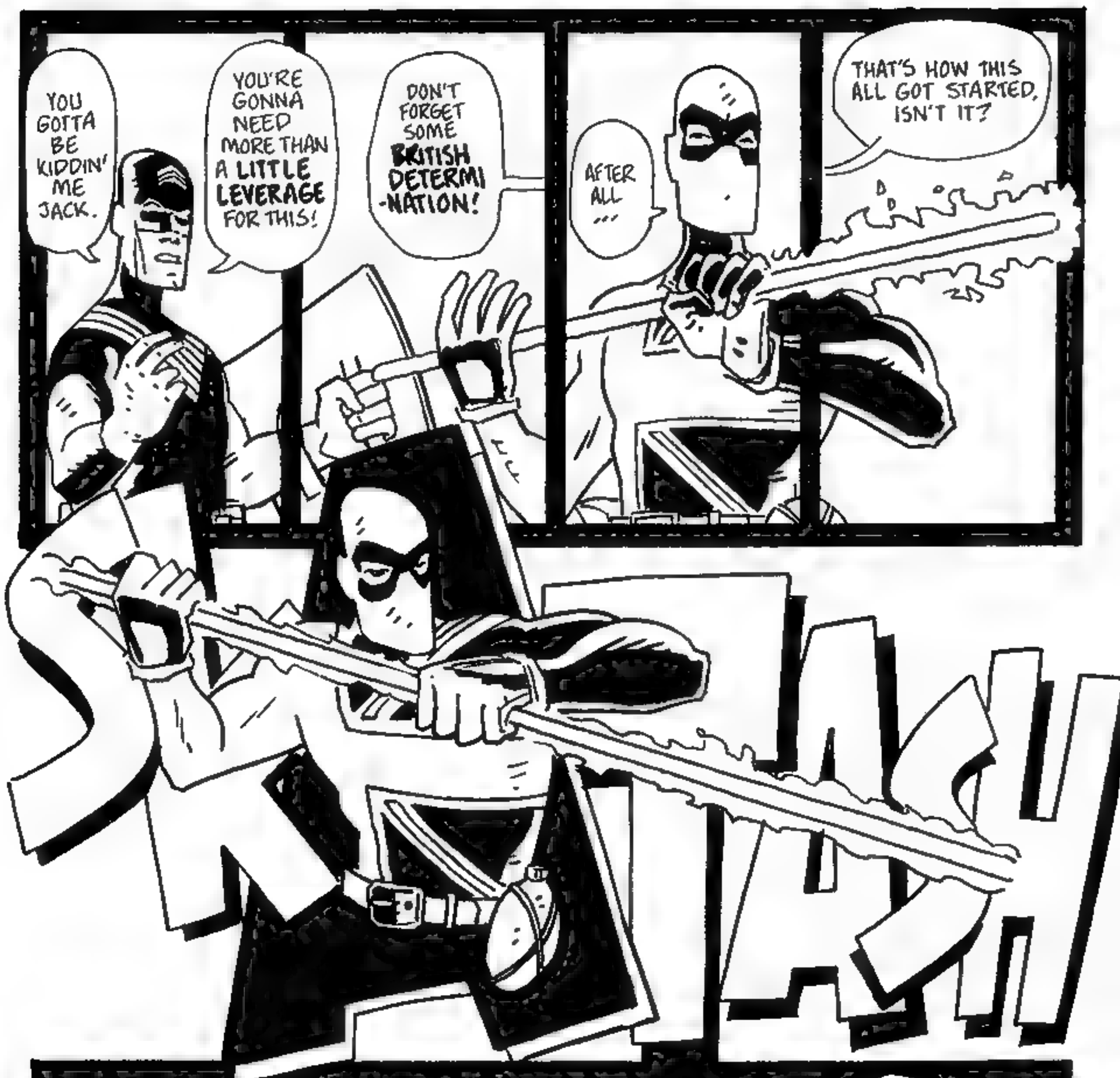
**DIE  
FOUL  
DEMON  
SPAWN!**













SGT. STATES ☆ JACK STAFF ☆ BLAZING GLORY ☆ TOMMY TWISTER

AUGUST  
1940



IT WAS THE LAST INNOCENT MOMENT THAT HE EVER HAD.

THE BOY WAS PULLED ALIVE FROM A BOMBED OUT BUILDING.

HEY SARGE!

TAKE YOUR PICTURE?

IT WAS A MOMENT TO REMEMBER.

IT'S ALBERT ISN'T IT?

YOU LOOKING FOR YOUR MOTHER?

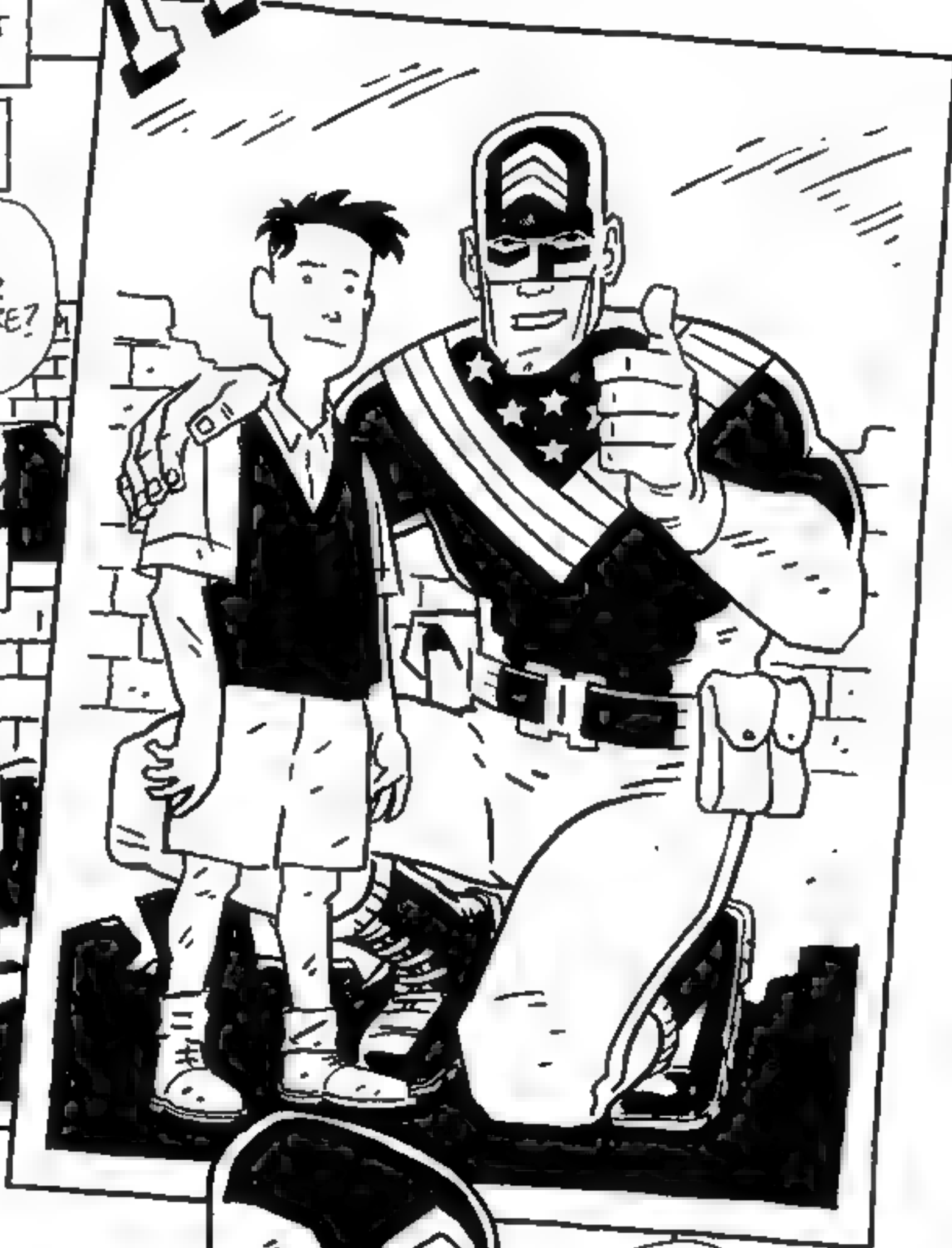
A MOMENT OF CHILDLIKE HOPE AND WONDER IN A WORLD FULL OF DARK AND DESPAIR.

YOU BETTER COME WITH ME LAD.

I'M AFRAID I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS FOR YOU.

TOO BAD HE WAS TOO INNOCENT TO KNOW IT COULDN'T LAST.

# THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS



IF I MAY CAPTAIN?

OR MAYBE IT WAS JUST AS WELL.







GOMMY TWISTER IS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD. HE THINKS HE'LL LIVE FOREVER.

THIS IS THE POWER OF THE TORNADO. NOTHING CAN TOUCH HIM.



YET WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH THE SHADOW THAT WAS TEMPLAR RICHARDS BODY, HE FEELS A COLDNESS GRIP AT HIS HEART.

HE SCREAMS.



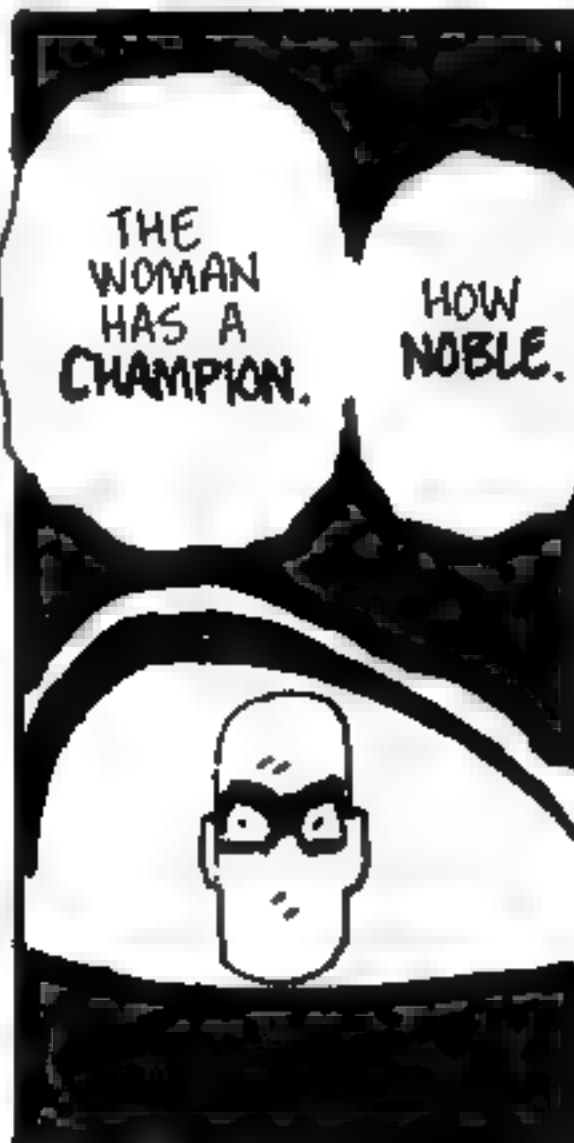
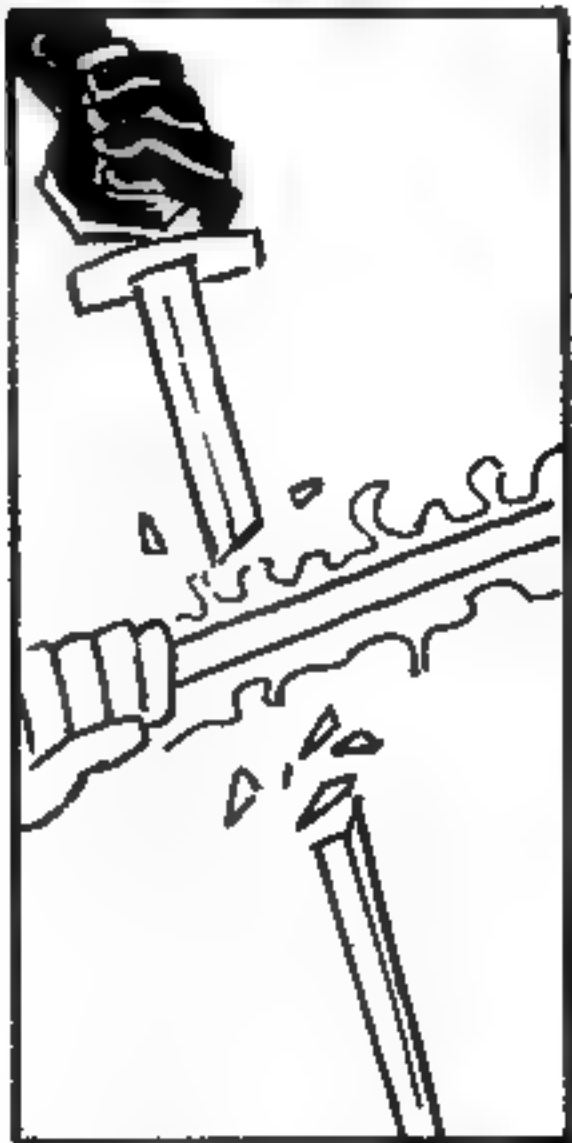
YOU ANIMAL

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?



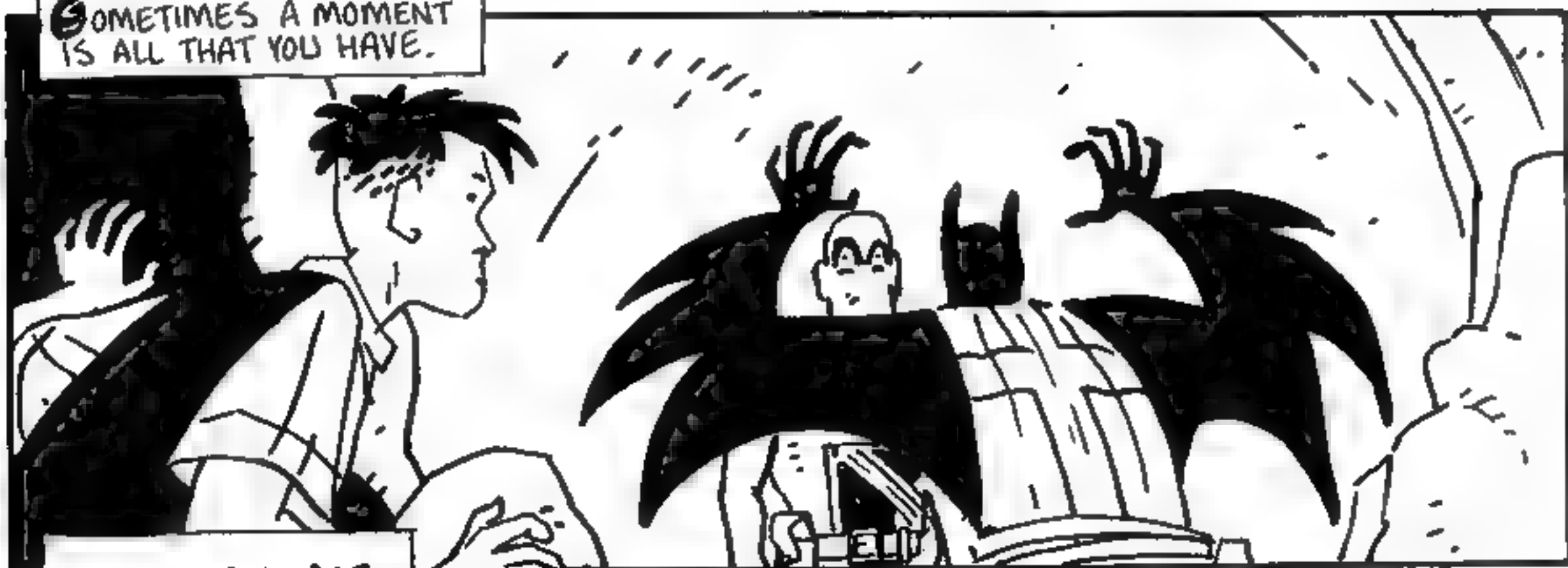
DO?

I DID NOTHING DEAR WOMAN.





SOMETIMES A MOMENT  
IS ALL THAT YOU HAVE.



A MOMENT TO ACT.



A MOMENT'S BRAVERY.



A MOMENT'S FOOLISHNESS.



A MOMENT'S DISTRACTION.



IT'S TEN TWENTY  
THREE PM.



STALAGTITES  
FORMED OVER  
THOUSANDS OF  
YEARS ARE  
SHATTERED  
IN A MOMENT.



AND FOR THE  
SECOND NIGHT  
IN A ROW,  
BOMBS ARE  
DROPPED ON  
CASTLETOWN.



SOMETIMES, A  
MOMENT IS ALL  
IT TAKES.





SHICKT



HE TRIES TO LEAVE WHAT HAPPENED HERE BEHIND. THE NIGHTMARES. THE EMPTY SCREAMING INSIDE. FORGET THEM.

BUT HE KNOWS HE NEVER WILL.

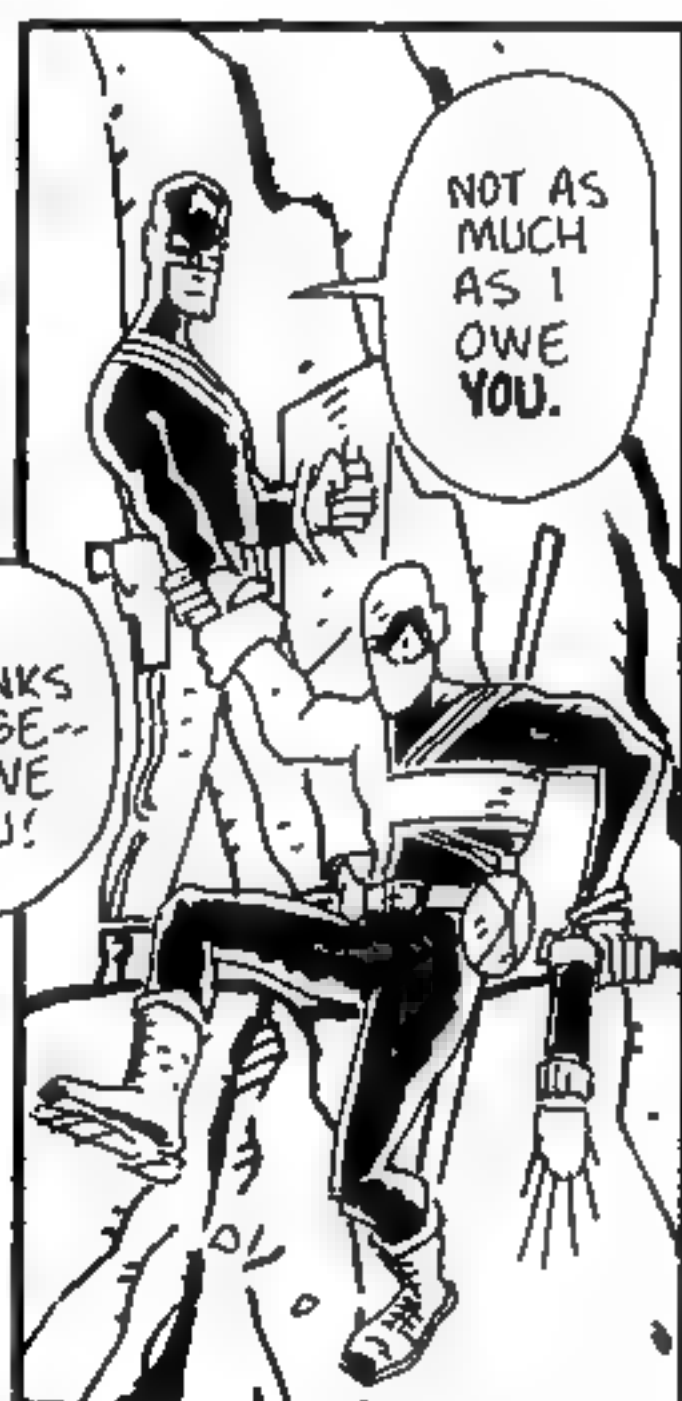
NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT.



CONTINUING  
THE  
ADVENTURES OF  
**BRITAIN'S  
GREATEST  
HERO AND  
AMERICA'S  
FIGHTING  
FOOTSOLDIER**

# THE WIND









# BRAMBLE & SON

## VAMPIRE HUNTERS







# BRAMBLE AND SON

ARE YOU MAD?

YOU INVITED THE UNDEAD INTO OUR SANCTUM?

SHE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS IS SHE?

SHE'S NOT EXHIBITING ANY OF THE CLASSIC VAMPIRE SYMPTOMS.

EVEN FANG CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

NICE DOGGY.

SHOO!

YOU KNOW HOW HE IS WITH VAMPIRES

YAP!  
YAP!!

DON'T YOU SEE?

SHE'S JUST FOOLING YOU WITH HER LITTLE VAMPIRE WAYS

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

YOU NEVER LET ME BRING A GIRL HOME DO YOU?



# Yank hero rescues brave lad



Aug 17 - CASTLETOWN BLITZ  
Survivor of the Castletown blitz  
Albert Bramble (7), pictured  
with Sgt. States shortly after  
being dug out of the rubble  
by the American Hero.

WHO'S  
THIS?

THAT'S  
ME,  
SEVEN  
YEARS  
OLD.

MIND YOU, THE REAL  
STORY SHOULD'VE BEEN  
**BRAVE LAD RESCUES  
YANK HERO** ... BUT  
THEY NEVER PRINTED  
THAT!

ALL GOT  
**COVERED UP.**  
BUT I KNOW  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
...

NO,  
YOU  
**STUPID  
MAN!**

NOT  
THE  
BOY!

**HIM!**

B-BUT  
EVERY  
BODY  
KNOWS  
HIM!

THAT'S  
AMERICA'S  
FIGHTING  
FOOT  
SOLDIER  
...

**SGT.  
STATES**

ALL I  
KNOW IS  
**THAT'S  
THE MAN  
WHO  
KILLED  
ME!**



# BEGINS TO HOWL







# STAFF POST

DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS  
P.O. BOX 2362, WELLS, BA5 1YQ, ENGLAND  
e-mail: danceleph@aol.com

hi paul!

you know, it hasn't happened much in recent years, but every so often, somebody, somewhere, sits down and creates a superhero comic i can really enjoy. in the small press, holey crullers, lady spectra and sparky, mister mid-nite ... in the pro arena, astro city, planetary, rising stars, warren ellis & co.'s work on stormwatch and authority ... and now, jack staff. this book is a total romp; i get the impression that you are having a lot of fun working on it. not that kane reads like you're terminally depressed, but the superhero genre can really bring out the kid in a creator, and that seems to be the case with js. reading it certainly brought out the kid in me. this is the first superhero comic in a long time to give me that 'oh my god i can't wait till next issue!' feeling. despite its admittedly british flavor, it really manages to capture the feel of the early silver age marvel universe. i get a definite kirby vibe from the titular hero and tom tom the robot man, and the 'q' splash page and logo radiate ditko like nobody's business. still, your writing (and art) has a modern edge to it that levers it up out of the standard '1960s rehash' retro comix pile.

stuff i esp. enjoyed: 'your grandmother used to dance to' (ouch! now that's just plain rude)... john's/jack's poses in ppls 3 and 6 of p5, #1 (nice touch!)... helen morgan and blazing glory (babes ahoy)... 'woah! good choice' (ha!)... the shot of tom tom on p1, #2 (a big clunky metal guy, and you really made him look feather light and airborne. i am in awe... 'then along came tom tom' (doggone it, now i've got 'along came mary' going thru my head. stop that!)... tom tom's reaction to helens death (woah! What's **this** all about?)... tom tom's reaction to jack's request that they not fight... 'and the military might of uncle sam!' (ha!)... 'finally, at least someone thinks to bring a rope' (ha! again)... and of course, all the ongoing mysteries (jack's apparently not aging, templar richard, whether tom tom's a robot or a guy in a suit, etc...).

apologies for turning into a total paul grist fanboy here, but you bring this on yourself by doing comics this enjoyable. looking forward to #3 and on. that's it for now, take care and keep up the great work!

eric hess  
ehess01@yahoo.com

*Hand on heart, Tom Tom the Robot Man is not a guy in a suit. Would I lie to you?*

Dear Paul

I just picked up issue #2 of Jack Staff and loved it. Your cartooning style and use of black is very appealing and well thought out. Your writing style is clear, unpretentious and fun as well. As long as you're making comics, I'll be buying.

If you'd consider selling a page of original art or drawing a commission, please let me know. I'd be proud to own a piece of art of the characters you have created.

Your fan,

Chris Bailey  
Chris@major-damage.com

*I am selling the original pages for Jack Staff. Single pages are available at £50 UK, \$85 US each. The colour pages are not yet available. It might be a good idea to list alternatives in case your first choice is already gone. As always, please make all cheques/postal orders payable to Paul Grist.*

*No, I don't do commission artwork, though I'm usually pretty amenable for sketches and suchlike at comic conventions. Though I did refuse to draw Lobo. You have been warned!*

Dear Paul

I wanted to let you know how much I've enjoyed Jack Staff 1 and 2. They remind me (in a good way) of Roy Thomas's Invaders series (issues I'm lacking of which I always buy when I spot them cheap, which, wonders of wonders, they often are), I mean the interweaving of (what feels like) different characters' continuities to create a sense of the rediscovery of a past era. But your series has the added bonus of moving backwards and forward to and from a linked story in the present. Great stuff. Of course, there's also the fact that the Invaders fought a Nazi vampire called Baron Blood... Will you be including a tribute to Warrior Woman (Frank Robbins' cheekbones, huffa, dead non-pc huffa)? or haven't you got a clue what I'm talking about, in which case I'd better stop.

As ever your art and layouts are terrific. I do think the odd panel here and there with more background detail would add texture to the overall mix, but I understand that might not be the look you're after, and that there are time constraints involved.



I share Ed Hillyer's qualms about the nostalgia fixation gripping the American comics market at the moment. He's right to criticise those who cynically exploit the idea of nostalgia (I particularly hate those 'remember the heydays'-look comics with snazzy covers by someone with a grasp of anatomy but then inhuman art on the inside). And the prices! Sufferin' shad! If anyone below the age of 30 is buying this stuff, how are they financing their habit? Dot com zillionaires?

But, thank god, there are also comics like Jack Staff which manages to tell a worthwhile story while taking advantage of the extra buzz older readers get from seeing old favourites again (or never existing new favourites reminiscent of old ones). It should only be an 'extra' buzz, not the reason d'etre of the whole shebang. The story should make sense to and inspire those readers who haven't got a clue what all the references are. And that's why Jack Staff, I reckon, is pretty nifty.

One thing, I'm a little unclear about Becky's newspaper. It 'feels' like a small town local rag, but then it seems to deal in big national stories. I know Jack Staff is a fun comic and therefore we shouldn't get too bogged down in details, but then again, it's the details that underpin the fun and let us fly with it in our heads.

I hope you're prospering in your excellent endeavours, Paul, and hopefully we'll meet up again somewhere!

Chris Butler  
178 Middlewood Road  
SHEFFIELD S6 1TD

*The World's Press is a nationally distributed paper dealing in stories of the weird and bizarre (not to mention stupid). It's produced in Castletown, which tends to be a bit of a focal point for the weird and bizarre (not to mention stupid), which may give it a more local feel than most national papers. A local paper for local people.*

Dear Paul

There was a debate recently on the Brian Bendis noticeboard about Comics vs. Trades and today I understand the argument as to why trade paperbacks are good .....you don't have to wait to find out what happens next!!!

Alan Henderson  
150 South Gyle Mains  
EDINBURGH

*Next issue: You didn't really believe that story about Sgt States being frozen in ice for forty years did you?*

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